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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1978BUENOS04756

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Channel: n/a

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6202

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full
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Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE

REF: A STATE 155078, B BUENOS AIRES 4734, C BUENOS
AIRES 4466, D BUENOS AIRES 4595

1. THE LATEST HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP (BA 4734) PROVIDES
UPDATE TO JUNE 16 AS REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2, REFTTEL
A.

2. ON THE THREE KEY ISSUES, REPORTED STATISTICS SHOW
THAT IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE NEWSOM VISIT MAY 23-25
THE NUMBER OF NEW DETAINEES UNDER PEN IS SOMEWHAT
REDUCED AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS RELEASED OR
AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IS UP. SINCE MAY 21,
56 PERSONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN RELEASED, 25 HAVE
BEEN DETAINED, AND 11 HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE
THE COUNTRY. THESE STATISTICS COMPARE FAVORABLY
WITH THOSE OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR. WE
INFORM FAMILIES ABOUT DISAPPEARANCE CASES OR
RESOLVE THEIR LEGAL STATUS BEYOND THOSE DESCRIBED
IN EARLIER CABLES, SUCH AS PHONE CALLS FROM THE
"DISAPPEAREDS" TO THEIR FAMILIES. NO NEW INSTI-
TUTIONAL METHODS HAVE BFIN ANNOUNCED TO PROVIDE

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SYSTEMATIC INFORMATION TO FAMILIES.

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3. ON THE MATTER OF SECURITY FORCES CONDUCT AND ABUSES, THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WORLD CUP MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT TRENDS. POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES IN ARGENTINA HAVE BEEN UNDER STRICT ORDERS TO AVOID REACTIONS OR INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD GIVE FOREIGN VISITORS AND PRESS FUEL FOR CRITICIZING THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY PRACTICES. THIGHT CONTROLS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. AIDED BY THE FACT THAT TO DATE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES DURING THE WORLD CUP GAMES HAVE IN FACT BEEN MINOR AND VERY FEW, THE CONDUCT OF THE SECURITY FORCES HAS MUCH IMPROVED. THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE SIGNALLED THAT IMPRESSION TO THE EMBASSY AND BY THE FREEDOM WITH WHICH THEY HOLD THEIR RALLIES AND MEET WITH FOREIGN NEWSMEN. SEE REF B.

4. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT LESS REPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN ABSOLUTE SIGN THAT OBJECTIVES HAVE CHANGED. THE SECURITY FORCES ARE STILL CHARGED WITH ERADICATING TERRORISM. (FOR EXAMPLE, IN AN INCIDENT BEFORE THE NEWSOM VISIT, TERRORISTS ON MAY 11 BOMBED THE SAN MARTIN CULTURAL CENTER KILLING TWO POLICEMEN AND INJURING A CHILD. SECURITY FORCES WITHIN A FEW DAYS REPORTEDLY ELIMINATED A GROUP OF PRT/ERP MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH THE BOMBING. SEE REFTEL D. SECRET NOFORN.)

5. WHAT DOES APPEAR TO BE HAPPENING IS GREATER CONTROL OVER THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDNIGHT
[REDACTED]
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ABDUCTIONS AND RELATED EXCESSES, AND GREATER CARE IN TARGETING SUBVERSIVES AND CARRYING OUT OPERATIONS. AS REPORTED IN REF C, CONTROLS HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED BOTH ON MILITARY AND POLICE OPERATIVES. THE ARMY IS TRYING A NUMBER OF OFFICERS FOR ABUSING AUTHORITY IN CARRYING OUT OPERATIONS. THE FEDERAL POLICE HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST HUNDREDS OF POLICE FOUND GUILTY OF EXCESSES. HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE SPEAKING OUT PUBLICLY ON THE NEED TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS OF THE SECURITY FORCES.

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6. COMMENT: THE PERIOD AFTER THE WORLD CUP WILL
PERMIT US TO MAKE A MORE USEFUL ANALYSIS OF THE
MEASURES TAKEN BY GOA TO CURB SECURITY FORCES'
EXCESSES AND RESOLVE DETAINEE AND DISAPPEARANCE
CASES.
CASTRO

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